

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~bidding to drive~~ driving competition in an auction comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of bidders;
 - using a processor ~~a parameter~~ to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset based on a parameter;
 - assigning a first identifier to the bidders in the first subset;
 - assigning a second identifier to the bidders in the second subset; and
 - displaying a lowest bid with the identifier for each bidder;
 - wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising: updating the lowest bids with new lowest bids from the bidders.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising: setting, in each subset, bid terms.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the setting comprises: establishing at least one of a reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the establishing comprises: providing time dependent variables including at least one of an opening time, a closing time, time extensions, and disclosures based on time.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing a parameter, the parameter being at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the parameter comprises regions, the competition comprises global and regional competition, and assigning a first identifier comprises: allotting a range of numbers to each region; and giving a number to each bidder in the region.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the displaying comprises: illustrating the lowest bids to allow a comparison regionally and globally.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises: accepting bids for a plurality of lots.

12. (Currently amended) A method of ~~bidding to drive~~ driving competition in an auction comprising:

- soliciting a plurality of bids;
- receiving the bids from a plurality of bidders;
- using a processor ~~a parameter~~ to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset based on a parameter;
- assigning a first identifier to the bidders in the first subset;
- assigning a second identifier to the bidders in the second subset;
- setting, in each subset, bid terms;
- displaying a lowest bid with the identifier for each bidder;
- allowing competition of the bidders within the subset and the parameter; and
- updating the display with new lowest bids from the bidders;
- wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.

13. (Previously presented) A system of bidding to drive competition in an auction comprising:

a database for receiving and storing bid information from bidders; and
a processor configured to:

use a parameter to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset;

assign a first identifier to the bidders in the first subset;

assign a second identifier to the bidders in the second subset; and

display a lowest bid with the identifier for each bidder;

wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the parameter comprises at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second subsets comprise geographical areas for the regions, methods of payment for the payment terms, methods of delivery for the delivery terms, times for the contract length, capacities for the contract volume, types of material for the material, and at least one of approval and certification for the qualification status.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first identifier comprises a number selected from a range of numbers assigned to the subset.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the database stores bid terms for each subset.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the bid terms comprise at least one of a reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the processor is further configured to update the lowest bids with new lowest bids.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first identifier indicates a number

of bidders in each subset.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first identifier conceals a number of bidders in the first subset.

22. (Previously presented) A computer program product for bidding to drive competition in an auction, the computer program product being embodied in a tangible computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of bidders;

using a parameter to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset; and

displaying a lowest bid with the identifier for each bidder

wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.

23. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the parameter comprises at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

24. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first and second subsets comprise geographical areas for the regions, methods of payment for the payment terms, methods of delivery for the delivery terms, times for the contract length, capacities for the contract volume, types of material for the material, and at least one of approval and certification for the qualification status.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first identifier comprises a number selected from a range of numbers assigned to the first subset.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising setting, in each subset, bid terms.

27. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the bid terms

comprise at least one of a reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.

28. (Previously presented) A computer program product of claim 22, further comprising updating the lowest bids with new lowest bids.

29. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first and second identifiers indicate a number of bidders in each respective subset.

30. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first identifier conceals a number of bidders in the first subset.